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Legislative Bulletin.....March 25, 2010

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H.R. __ - To Permit the use of previously appropriated funds to extend the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, and for other purposes. (Serrano, D-NY)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, March 25, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The legislation of the legislation allows up to \$40 million previously appropriated as part of the FY 2010 Omnibus, for the Small Business Administration-Business Loans Program Account, to be made available for fee reductions and eliminations authorized by the “stimulus.”

This legislation also extends the sunset date of the loan guarantees program from March 28, 2010 (under current law) to April 30, 2010. The last extension came from H.R. 4508 which passed the House on January 27, 2010 by a roll call vote of [410-4](#).

Committee Action: H.R. __ will be introduced on March 25, 2010.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO report is unavailable.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 1215 – Expressing support for Bangladesh’s return to democracy. (Crowley, D-NY)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, March 25, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1215 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Expresses its strong support for the people of Bangladesh;
- “Encourages the strengthening and consolidation of democracy in Bangladesh one year after the election;
- “Urges the Government of Bangladesh to work together with all political leaders to continue and deepen reconciliation;
- “Appreciates the Government of Bangladesh for making progress in meeting the selection criteria of the Millennium Challenge Corporation;
- “Urges the Government of Bangladesh to protect the rights of religious and ethnic minorities in Bangladesh, including the Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, Ahmadis, and non-Muslim tribal peoples;
- “Urges the Anti-Corruption Commission in Bangladesh to continue its efforts to eradicate corruption;
- “Urges the President to coordinate with Bangladesh on matters pertaining to security, economic progress, and human rights in South Asia; and
- “Encourages the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to commit increased resources in supporting the building of a strong civil society and eradicating poverty in Bangladesh.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “Bangladesh has a population of approximately 160,000,000 people, is the world's fourth most populated Muslim country, and is a stable, moderate, democratic Muslim nation;
- “President Barack Obama awarded Muhammad Yunus the Presidential Medal of Freedom in August 2009;
- “the U.S. Agency for International Development reports that 49 percent of Bangladeshis live below the poverty line;
- Bangladesh's economy grew at an estimated rate of 5.7 percent in 2009; and
- “the Anti-Corruption Commission in Bangladesh has commenced serious efforts to address corruption.”

Potential Conservative Concern: Though the resolution does not authorize expenditures, it does state that the House “encourages the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to commit increased

resources in supporting the building of a strong civil society and eradicating poverty in Bangladesh.” Many conservatives have historically opposed funding for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Committee Action: H.Res. 1215 was introduced on March 24, 2010 and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs’ Committee, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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